

NCRIC RECONSIDERS DECISION TO STOP WRITING MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR WEST VIRGINIA DOCTORS

August 11, 2004

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Gov. Bob Wise today announced that NCRIC Inc. has agreed to reconsider its earlier decision to cease writing medical liability insurance coverage for West Virginia physicians.

NCRIC had previously informed the West Virginia Insurance Commission it would be withdrawing from the state and non-renewing physicians currently covered by the company.

"I appreciate NCRIC's willingness to work with us as we address the medical liability insurance market in West Virginia and the faith it has shown in the actions taken by this administration and the Legislature," Wise said.

Insurance Commissioner Jane L. Cline has maintained a dialogue with NCRIC since its decision to withdraw from the West Virginia market in an attempt to convince the company to continue writing medical liability coverage in West Virginia.

"NCRIC has agreed to submit a rate filing, which will be reviewed in an expedited manner," said Cline. "Everyone involved has gone to great lengths and shown a tremendous sense of responsibility in an effort to increase the availability of medical liability insurance. I am optimistic the expected rate filing will meet the criteria we are held to of assuring rates are adequate but not excessive."

The review of NCRIC's rate filing will be conducted by Insurance Commission staff with the aid of contract professionals as necessary.